

# **NATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE**

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The subject of spiritual gifts has suffered, especially in the mainline churches, from two extremes -an over-emphasis or an under-emphasis.

There are those whose whole life and service is involved in talking about the gifts. Others, maybe because of their over-emphasis, have ignored the spiritual gifts altogether. Neither of them is correct. We want to offer a balance view, a Biblical view.

Regardless of your background or your present learning, please watch and listen carefully. Learn as many facts as you can. Listen to the reasoning. Then, make up your mind based not on “what I have always thought” or “was always taught,” or even “what I experienced,” but on what the Bible teaches.

There are twelve lessons in this study. They are thirty minutes in length. If you are meeting with a class, you will watch one tape at each meeting. You should be sitting at a place where you can take notes in this study guide. At the end of each lesson, there are questions for discussion or reflection. Your leader will give you opportunity to address those questions. Please participate. Your opinions will be a valuable contribution to the learning process of the entire class.

These lessons are available on six video tapes or six audio tapes, or CD/DVD including one study guide, from the National Bible College. Additional study guides are also available.

So, open your Bible, your study guide and especially your mind and let's see what the Bible teaches about spiritual gifts.

*NOTE:* On some lessons, there is an overlap. One lesson extends into a new section. The next lesson will **review** that material and then start the new material, the **review** sections will be clearly marked. Normally the questions for that material will be at the end of the second lesson.

**Lesson 1**

**I. OLD TESTAMENT SIGNS**

(Basically two periods of sign miracles)

**A. Moses**

1. The need for signs – Background.

a. Moses needed a sign—Exodus 4:1-ff.

b. God's people needed a sign—Exodus 4:1-ff

c. Pharaoh needed a sign—Exodus 5:2.

2. Result of the signs.

a.

b.

3. Moses' successor, Joshua

B. Elijah—I Kings 16:21-ff

1. The need for signs

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Result of the signs

3. Elijah's successor, Elisha—II Kings 2:15

## II. NEW TESTAMENT SIGNS

A. Jesus

1. The need for signs

2. The result of signs

B. The successors to Jesus, the apostles

**A LIST OF THE GIFTS**

**Romans 12:6-9**

Prophesying  
Ministering  
Teaching  
Exhorting  
Giving  
Ruling  
Showing mercy

**Ephesians 4:11**

Apostleship  
Prophesying  
Evangelizing  
Pastor-Teacher

**I Peter 4:11**

Speaking  
Ministering

**I Corinthians 12:6-10**

Word of wisdom  
Word of knowledge  
Faith  
Miracles  
Healing  
Prophesying  
Discerning of spirits

**I Corinthians 12:28**

Apostleship  
Prophesying  
Teaching  
Miracles  
Healing  
Helping  
Administering  
Tongues

**I Corinthians 12:29,30**

Apostleship  
Prophesying  
Teaching  
Miracles  
Healing  
Tongues  
Interpretation of tongues

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE GIFTS**

**Foundation**

Apostle  
Prophet

**Transition**

Tongues  
Interpretation  
Healing  
Miracles

**Revelation**

Prophecy  
Word of wisdom  
Word of knowledge  
Discerning of spirits

**Communication**

Speaking  
Teaching  
Exhorting

**Expansion**

Evangelism  
Faith  
Giving

**Edification**

Mercy  
Ministering  
Pastoring

**Administration**

Administering  
Bishop-Overseeing

**PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS OF THE CHURCH**

**I. DEFINITION OF THE TERM "GIFT"**

**A. What is meant**

1.

2.

**B. What is not meant**

1. Not primarily a place of service

2. Not primarily a particular age- group ministry

3. Not primarily a particular specialty of ministry

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What are the 3 periods of sign – miracles?
  
  
  
2. What can we deduce about sign – miracles today from these three periods?
  
  
  
3. What this means that God does not do any miracles today? Does not heal? Why or Why not?
  
  
  
4. Where did Dr Sellers say that the burden of proof rests? Why?
  
  
  
5. Would you say that the “classification of the gifts” on page 3 is:
  - a. Arbitrary? – Why?
  
  - b. Artificial? - Why?
  
  - c. Accurate? - Why?
  
  
  
6. Are there some new categories that you would like to suggest? Explain?
  
  
  
7. Would you move either of the gifts to another group? Explain.

**Lesson 2**

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(review)-----

**PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS OF THE CHURCH**

**I. DEFINITION OF THE TERM “GIFT”**

**A. What is meant?**

1.

2.

**B. What is not meant?**

1. Not primarily a place of service.

2. Not primarily a particular age – group ministry.

3. Not primarily a particular specialty of ministry.

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(End review)-----

**II. DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS**

A. Limited as to agent

B. Limited as to extent

C. Limited as to time

**III. DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS**

A. Foundation

1. Apostle

a. Word meaning

b. Requirements

1) Had been with the Lord—Acts 1:21, 22

2) Had seen the risen Lord—Acts 1:22, I Corinthians 9:1 and 15:8

3) Chosen by the Lord—Acts 1:26

- 4) Did signs of an apostle—II Corinthians 12:12
- 5) Received revelation and gave it authoritatively
  - a) Resurrection of the saints—I Corinthians 15:5
  - b) Mystery of the church—Ephesians 3
  - c) Lord's supper—I Corinthians 11:23
  - d) Gospel—I Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 1:12
- c. Continuation
  - 1) Chosen by the Lord, Himself
  - 2) Foundational—Ephesians 2:20
  - 3) Not replaced

d. Non-technical sense

1) Acts 14:4, 14

2) II Corinthians 8:23

3) Philippians 2:25

2. Prophet—Ephesians 4

a. An office and gift - (see prophecy)

b. Continuation negative - (see apostle)

B. Transition

1. Tongues—I Corinthians 12:10

2. Interpretation of tongues

3. Healing(s)—I Corinthians 12:9

4. Miracles - signs—I Corinthians 12:28

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What is the main difference between the two meanings of the Greek words for gift?
  
  
  
2. What is the most surprising part of “What is not meant” by spiritual gifts?
  
  
  
3. If the Holy Spirit is the sovereign giver of gifts, should the believer pray for a particular gift?
  
  
  
4. If someone has been taught that the pastor is an apostle and then finds out that the Bible teaches that this is not true, does that pose a serious problem in his church? Why or why not?
  
  
  
5. Why do you think that some people believe there are apostles in the church today?
  
  
  
6. Were others beside Paul and the twelve called apostles?
  
  
  
7. What is another word for interpretation? What is the distinction between those two words? What difference does it make in the understanding of the “gifts of interpretation”?
  
  
  
8. Did Jesus heal because he wanted everyone to be well?
  
  
  
9. Is all sickness a result of sin?

### Lesson 3

#### C. Revelation

1. Prophecy—Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:10; 14:1-40; Ephesians 4:11

a. Words involved:

b. Description

c. Examples

d. Continuation -- negative

1) Foundational—Ephesians 2:20

2) Outgrown - needed after complete revelation

2. Word of Wisdom

3. Word of knowledge

4. Discerning of spirits—I Corinthians 12:10

Capacity to determine whether a prophet, teacher, or preacher is under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, his own spirit or the demons.

D. Communication

1. Speaking
2. Teaching—Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11
3. Exhorting—Romans 12:8

E. Administration

1. Administering—Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 12:28
2. Overseeing

F. Expansion

1. Evangelism—Ephesians 4:11
2. Faith—I Corinthians 12:8-10
3. Giving
  - a. Philippians 4:10-16
  - b. II Corinthians 8:2
  - c. II Corinthians 4:7
  - d. Acts 5

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. Evaluate the following statement: Prophecy can be either fore-telling or forth-telling. The modern day preacher is a forth-teller; therefore, today's pastors are prophets.
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What two facts make prophecy unlikely at the present time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When the man or woman on T. V. has a "word of knowledge", is that equivalent to the word of knowledge of I Corinthians 12? Why or Why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why do we not need the gift of discernment today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Evaluate this statement: I do not have the gift of evangelism so I am not expected to witness.
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Discuss the Philippians example of giving.

Lesson 4

G. Edification

1. Mercy—Romans 12:3  
Giving aid to the helpless, unlovely, underprivileged--they can't do you any good.
2. Ministering—Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:12
3. Pastoring—Ephesians 4:11

IV. CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE GIFTS

- A. Not all have the gift of pastoring but all can "pastor".
- B. Not all have the gift of evangelism but all must witness.
- C. Not all have the gift of teaching but all should teach.
- D. Not all have the gift of faith or giving but all should give.

E. Not all have the gift of mercy but all should show mercy.

F. Not all have the gift of helps but all should help.

G. Not all have the gift of exhortation but all should exhort.

## V. GENERAL USE OF THE GIFTS

- A. For the common good—I Corinthians 12:7 (A.S.V.)
- B. For the building up of the body of Christ—Ephesians 4:11 ff
- C. Not for personal or private use or benefit

## VI. SPECIFIC USE OF GIFTS TODAY

- A. Discernment of one's gift(s)
  - 1. Abilities
  - 2. Desires
  - 3. Opportunities
  - 4. Success
  - 5. Counsel of leaders—Acts 13:1-5

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. Evaluate the section “Clarification of gifts”.
  - a. Why have a gift of evangelism if all are to witness?
  - b. Why have a gift of giving if all are to give?
2. Should we understand that in the early church all were to perform the miraculous gifts as well? (Read I Corinthians 12:29-30)
3. Taking each of the gifts mentioned on page 3, find a verse teaching that all should do that kind of ministry.

**Lesson 5**

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(review)-----

**VI. SPECIFIC USE OF GIFTS TODAY**

**A. Discernment of one's gift(s)**

1. Abilities

2. Desires

3. Opportunities

4. Success

5. Counsel of leaders—Acts 13:1-5

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(end review)-----

**B. Willingness to serve**

1. Say that you are willing

2. Show that you are willing

C. Develop your gifts

1. Training

2. Reading

3. Sharing ideas

4. Practice

**VII. RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE GIFTS**

A. Prayer as a regular communication with the Lord

B. Confession and forsaking of sin

C. Personal Bible study

D. Church attendance

### **Summary:**

1. Signs are not the normal thing in God's dealing with man.
2. The gifts of the Spirit are given sovereignly to whomever He will - not every gift to every person.
3. The gifts are given for the building up of the body of believers and not for the individual (or private) use of the possessor.
4. Not all have any one gift - do all speak with tongues?  
(I Corinthians 12:30)
5. Some gifts do not extend beyond the apostolic period. (i.e. apostles)

### **Therefore:**

1. We must discern what our gift(s) is\are (10 possible). We must be careful not to assume that we have a higher or lower gift than we do.
2. We must develop our gift(s). This takes work, study, and careful discernment. There are many books on evangelism, counseling, hospital visitation, teaching, church administration, giving, etc.

### **BUT...**

3. We must not let gift seeking become an obsession.
4. We must respect God's gifts in others and allow them to serve their Master in the way He leads.

## **For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What particular use of gifts today would be eliminated if everyone understood that the gifts are to be used to edify others?
2. What opportunities for service are available in your church?
3. What success have you had in Christian service?
4. Have you told the leaders of your church that you are willing?
5. What training have you taken for Christian service?
6. What training is available in the next 6 months through your church or denomination?
7. Do you have some idea what your gift(s) is/are?
8. Do you have a regular devotional life? Bible study? Church attendance?

**Lesson 6**  
**SPIRIT BAPTISM IN ACTS**

	ACTS 2	ACTS 8	ACTS 10	ACTS 19
Time	Day of Pentecost c.29 AD	c. 32 AD	c. 34/35 AD	c. 54 AD <input type="checkbox"/>
People	Jews	Samaritans	Gentiles	Disciples of John (Jews)
Terminology	Filled with the Holy Spirit. Baptized (by the statement of Scripture Acts 11:15,16	Received the Holy Spirit	Received Holy Spirit Called baptism by statement of Scripture: Acts 11:15,16	Received Holy Spirit
Sign	Spoke in tongues Sign to Jews. many were saved	None (recorded)	Spoke in tongues Sign to the Jews.	Spoke in tongues Sign to Jews (these were part of the church)
Circumstance	Tarrying	Laying on hands	Peter was preaching	Laying on hands
Belief	Believed before Spirit baptism	Believed before Spirit baptism	Believed at same time as Spirit baptism	Believed slightly before Spirit baptism
Water Baptism	Water Baptism previous to Spirit baptism by a few years for the 12	Water baptism before Spirit baptism by a little while	Water baptism after Spirit baptism	Water baptism after Spirit baptism

**SPIRIT BAPTISM IN ACTS  
Summary of Chart on page 21**

1. In each case of Spirit Baptism after Pentecost the people involved were of a different group than the normal Jewish group of Jerusalem (i.e. Samaritans, Gentiles and disciples of John, who had apparently not believed in Jesus).
2. There is no record of "Baptisms" (Spirit) after A.D. 54.
3. The authenticating sign in each case (probably also in Acts 8) was tongues. There were Jews present in each case and they were convinced by this sign.
4. The circumstances vary--tarrying and preaching to Jews and Gentiles and laying on of hands to identify the 2 "splinter" groups with the Jewish believers.
5. In relation to belief--belief was prior to Spirit baptism in 2 cases (Jews and Samaritans) after in 2 others (Gentiles and John's disciples).

So, you want to follow the example of the New Testament church?

Which example?? I suggest that you Gentiles might do well to examine Acts 10 where Gentiles were baptized by the Holy Spirit. Baptism by the Holy Spirit occurred at the same time as belief which came as a result of preaching the Word of God. Water baptism followed. (The sign of tongues was necessary to confirm the conversion to the Jerusalem Jews and those with Peter, not needed today)

**THE NATURE OF TONGUES**

There are two basic views:

(1) Ecstatic utterances, or (2) Known languages. Many see a combination of these two views; generally, known language in Acts and ecstatic utterances in Corinthians.

**I. SCRIPTURES INVOLVED**

A. Acts 2

B. Acts 10

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What can we learn from the chart on Spirit Baptism on page 21?
  
  
2. Who were the Samaritans?
  
  
3. What may be assumed from the fact that Spirit Baptism is never commanded in the Bible?
  
  
4. Where are the four religious groups in the time of the early church?
  
  
5. How was each group shown to be a part of the church, the body of Christ?

**Lesson 7**

**(review)**

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**THE NATURE OF TONGUES**

There are two basic views:

(1) Ecstatic utterances, or (2) known languages. Many see a combination of these two views; generally, known languages in Acts and ecstatic utterances in Corinthians.

**I. SCRIPTURES INVOLVED**

**B. Acts 2**

**B. Acts 10**

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**(End review)**

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**C. Acts 19**

**D. I Corinthians 12-14**

**II. THREE BASIC POSITIONS**

A. Languages in Acts and ecstatic utterances in Corinthians (often differentiates between the sign of the Holy Spirit in Acts and the gift in Corinthians).

1. Differences between Acts 2 and I Corinthians (Dr. Homer Kent as well as others at Grace Seminary):

**ACTS**

a. all spoke

b. were understood

c. did not have interpretation

d. harmony

**CORINTHIANS**

some spoke

not understood

did have interpretation

confusion

2. Tongues of angels—I Corinthians 13:1

B. All were ecstatic utterances (Dr. Charles Smith, Grace Seminary, and Master's college)

C. All were foreign languages (Many at Dallas Seminary)

1. Use of the word “tongues”.
2. Chronology of the tongues passages.
3. Use of the word dialect in Acts 2.
4. The use of ερμηνεια translated “interpret”.

**For Discussion or Reflection**

1. What are the evidences that the tongues of Acts 2 are known languages?
2. Would Peter and the Jews with him have been convicted that Gentiles were in the church if they spoke in a different kind of tongue? Why?
3. Can we logically argue for known languages in Corinth using the evidence of the book of Acts? How?
4. Discuss the differences between the tongues of Acts 2 and I Corinthians. What similarities are there?
5. How is the word “though” used to show that a statement is true? How is it used in I Corinthians 13:1?

Lesson 8

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(review)-----

C. All were foreign languages (Many at Dallas Seminary)

1. Use of the word “tongues”.

2. Chronology of the tongues passages.

3. Use of the word dialect in Acts 2.

4. The use of ερμηνεία translated “interpret”.

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(end review)-----

5. The word “unknown” in I Corinthians 14.

**PURPOSES OF TONGUES**

- I. As a prayer language.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- II. For personal edification.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- III. As proof of Spirit Baptism.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- IV. For evangelism or group edification.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- V. For authentication of the message of the early church.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- VI. A sign to Jewish National—I Corinthians 14:21

**Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What is the difference between a “dialect” and a “tongue”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If the word unknown is not in the original Greek, why did the King James translators put it in?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to this lesson is a person who speaks in tongues in private necessarily a bad person?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Can a person be saved and not have the Holy Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Is tongues speaking a sign to believers or unbelievers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is the only specific purpose stated in the Bible for tongues?

**Lesson 9**

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(review)-----

**PURPOSE OF TONGUES**

IV. A sign to Jewish Nation—I Corinthians 14:21

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(End review)-----

**DURATION OF TONGUES**

**I. THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS STILL BEING GIVEN TODAY**

- A. Jesus Christ is the “same, yesterday, today and forever” — Hebrews 13:8
  
- B. The New Testament nowhere says that tongues have ceased.
  
- C. People are doing it.

### **For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. Why should Jewish believers understand the reason for tongues?
2. What is the only occasion for tongues speaking in the church meeting?
3. Are Christians the only ones who speak in tongues? Explain.
4. Does the practice of tongues speaking today prove that God is empowering the speaker? Why?
5. If Jesus is the same today, why does He not give all of the same gifts today?

## II. TONGUES HAVE CEASED

- A. Tongues were among the signs given to confirm the Gospel.
- B. Now that the Scriptures are complete, signs are no longer necessary.—  
Hebrews 2:3
- C. God is no longer dealing with Israel as a nation. Therefore, a Jewish sign is not necessary.
- D. In God's dealing with man, miraculous signs are not the norm.
- E. During the apostolic age, there were special gifts.

F. I Corinthians 13:8-12 indicates that tongues were to cease.

1. The replacement of the gift of prophecy and the gift of knowledge by “that which is perfect”.
  - a. Use of εκμεούς “in part”.
  - b. Use of the passive verb “shall be rendered inoperative”.
  - c. The meaning of the word perfect (v10).
  - d. The progression of thought in vv. 9, 10, 12.
2. The use of the middle voice in relation to tongues (παύνσουται).

G. Tongues did in fact cease.

## **For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What light does Hebrew 2:3 shed on the cessation of the sign gifts?
2. What is God's relationship to the nation Israel today? What does that tell us about the gifts of tongues?
3. What is "that which is perfect"—I Corinthians 13:10?
4. How do we know that tongues did in fact cease?
5. What should be the response of a person who has had a tongues experience and now finds out that the Bible teaches tongues have ceased?

## Lesson 11

### **What About Tongues Today?**

- I. We must distinguish between the miracle and the gift.
  
- II. The fact that one speaks in tongues does not mean that the experience is from God.
  
- III. It can be a psychological phenomenon.
  
- IV. It can be of Satan.

**TONGUES APPEARANCES OR EXPERIENCES**

Acts	Date	Event	Books Written
2*	32		
8?			
9	33/4		
	36		
	40		
10*			
11	45	.....→ Paul's First Journey	James
13-14	47-48		Matthew
	49	→	Galatians
15	50	Jeremiah Council	
16-18	51-52	2nd Journey-----	I-II Thessalonians
19*-21	53-54 Tongues	3rd Journey-----	I-II Corinthians Romans
28	60-61	Prison --Rome	Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon
	65	Death of Paul-----	Mark, Luke, I-II Peter, Acts, I-II Timothy, Titus, Jude, Hebrews
	70	Destruction of Jeremiah	
REV 90-95 (?)			I,II,III John, John, Revelation

\*Acts 2-Jews; ?Acts 8-probable, \*Acts 10-Gentiles

\*Acts 19-Disc. Of John; \*I Corinthians-One of the gifts at Corinth

\*\* Later addition by the author

Some (including this author) now hold that the entire Johannine Corpus was written prior to A.D. 70.

See John A.T. Robinson, Redating The New Testament, (Westminster Press, 1976)  
pp. 254-311

## **For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. What if someone spoke the gospel in a language he had not learned and a man was saved. Does that mean that the gift of tongues was given to him or that the gift is available for believers today?
2. How could mass psychology produce a “spiritual experience”?
3. Is it possible for signs to be from Satan?
4. What light does history of the church throw on the subject of miracles?

Lesson 12

**DIVINE HEALING**

**I. JESUS' HEALING MINISTRY**

A. He did not heal everyone who was sick.

B. His healing was a sign concerning His Messiahship.

C. He did not have the “gift” of healing.

## II. THE GIFT OF HEALING

- A. There may never have been a gift of healing.
- B. Some had gifts of healing for specific instances.
- C. Even those who “healed” at one time could not “heal” on other occasions.
- D. They never held healing campaigns.

### III. CAN GOD HEAL TODAY?

- A. God can and does heal—in answer to prayer.
- B. It is not the will of God to heal everyone.
- C. You can believe in the power of God without believing He will heal everyone.
- D. Human means is as important in healing as it is in planting and harvesting.

**IV. WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR HEALING TODAY?**

James 5:14ff

- A. The sick one is to call for the elders.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. They (plural) are to pray over him.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. They are to anoint him with oil.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. The “faith” belongs to the elders.
  
  
  
  
  
  
- E. Confession of his sins is involved in the process—James 5:15, 16

**V. WHAT IS GOING ON TODAY?**

**For Discussion or Reflection:**

1. How is III John 2 misused today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the basis for all of our belief?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the importance of the plural “gifts of healing” —I Corinthians 12:9  
(note: all other gifts are named in the singular)
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Name and explain two instances when Paul apparently could not heal.
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Does God heal today? Does that mean that the gift of healing is being given just as it was in the early church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Discuss the guidelines of healing in James 5. How are these guidelines violated by many “healers” today?